ROUTING	SLIP	DIVISION OF WIIDLIF	E REFUGES DATE	E: <u>5-30</u> 194. 4
	MR. SALYER		SECTION OF HABITAT	IMPROVEMENT:
	MRS. WOODIN		Mr. Kubichek	
	MR. ETMER		Mr. Smith	
	MRS. CARVIN		Mr. Criffith	PSG 6/1
	MR. DOMONT	940	Miss Cook	Swc 5-31
	SECTION OF CPERAT	ions:	SECTION OF ERA:	
	Ar. Krumnos	48/8/8	VAR. Rosen	MR 61.144
	Mr. Gustarso	n	Dr. Hourn WS	B 5-30-44
	Miss Baum		Mrs. Fishman	
	Mrs. Kricun			•
	SECTION OF LAND M	ANAGEMENT:	STENOGRAPHEES	
	/ Mr. Earnshaw	6	Miss Whorley	
	Mr.Ackerknec	/	6-6-44 aK.	,
	SECTION OF STRUCT	ures:		7.94
	Kr. Taylor	rong 8/9/49		
REMARKS		PLATTE NARRATIVE REPORTED PROPERTY - APRIL 1944	ORT + Year's S.	mmory
			Return to: Hab	. Improvement

Narrative Report
North Platte Refuge
January, February, March & April
1944

### I General

A. Water Conditions

The first of the year Lake Minatare contained 11,725 acre feet of water, covering 938 acres. The last part of March the intake gates were opened and the water started flowing in both Lakes Alice and Minatare. The following is the storage in acre feet as of April 30;

	Elevation	Acre feet	Area submerged
Lake Alice	4170.2	3341	531
Lake Minatare	4115.0	40824	1827

#### II Wildlife

Only one inspection of the North Platte Refuge was made during the quarter. On April 4 both Mr. Fleming and I made an inspection of the area. At that time there were very few ducks resting on the lakes. We estimated that there were only 500 mallards on Lakes Alice, Minatare, and Winter's Creek. Ringbilled gulls were numerous. Very few ducks nest on these lakes. However during the fall migration thousands of all species of waterfowl use the area as a resting ground. It has been impossible for me to make as many trips to this refuge as I would have liked.

Upland game birds such as ringnecked pheasants and bob-white quail are common on the area. Sharp-tailed grouse have been observed but not in any large numbers. The North Platte Valley in the vicinity of this refuge is the only area in Western Nebraska where bob-white quail are to be found. The willow and cottonwood groves, and large patches of sweet clover on the refuge, afford the quail both food and cover. Ringnecked pheasants are plentiful and from the numbers observed by us on April 4th, it appeared as if they had wintered well.

#### III Maintenance

Several days should be spent on this area repairing the fence on Lake Minatare. But there is more urgent work at the Crescent Lake Refuge, and the fence repairs at Minatare will have to wait until summer. Mr. H. R. McElwee, an employee of the Pathfinder Irrigation District who was stationed on the refuge was retired on March 1st after some twenty year's service. Mr. McElwee will be missed by us. He was always repairing fence or replacing refuge markers, and although it was not in his line of duty, he did his best to protect the wildlife on the refuge by discouraging poachers and keeping livestock from the area. There are two other ditchwalkers stationed on the area but they show no intrest in wildlife. The North Platte Refuge should

really be visited more often but because of restricted travel and of work that must be done on the Crescent Lake area, it has been impossible to make the trip more often.

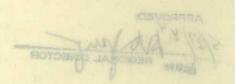
Gene H. Crawford Refuge Manager

APPROVED:



really be visited more often but because of restricted travel and of work that must be done on the Grescent Lake area, it has been impossible to make the trip more often.

Gene H. Grawford Refuge Manager





## CRESCENT LAKE REFUGE ELLSWORTH, NEBRASKA

Summary of year's activities for the North Platte Refuge submitted in conjunction with Quarterly Report for January, February, March, and April, 1944.

The lake levels on this refuge fluctuate as the water is impounded for for irrigational purposes. On January 1, 1943 Lake Minatare contained 4,200 acre feet of water. On June 30 this lake contained 55065 acre feet. Of course this is a very undesirable condition for nesting waterfowl. Even though this area is not too desirable for nesting waterfowl, it is a splend-id resting area especially during the Fall migration. On December 4 I made an inspection trip to this area and found 200,000 ducks concentrated on Lake Minatare and 10,000 on Winter's Creek. There was no duck population on Lake Alice as it was completely dry. Of the above duck concentration 95 percent were mallards and the remainder was about evenly divided between gadwalls, pintails, and redheads. Ringnecked pheasants and bob-white quail are plentiful on the area and from the numbers observed by me on my inspection to this area on April 4, it appeared as if they had wintered well.

A considerable amount of activity was observed during the fall and winter months as local sportsmen were fishing for northern pike in Lake Minatare. Three years ago the State Game Commission planted 80 pair of pike in this lake. The local people seem to think that the pike will help eleminate the larger portion of the carp from the lake. The largest pike caught during the year from the lake weighed 16 pounds and measured 42 inches in length.

Owing to lack of sufficient help at the Crescent Lake Refuge and the distance envolved in traveling to this refuge, it was not inspected as often as we would have liked. Mr. H. R. McElwee, employe of the irrigation district who was stationed on Lake Minatare, has a Federal commission to inforce the game laws was of great assistance to me. He was always repairing fence or replacing refuge markers. Mr. McElwee was retired by the Pathfinder Irrigation District on March 1st after some twenty year's service and he will be missed by us. There are two other ditchwalkers stationed on the area but they show no interest in wildlife. On April 12 of last year we placed two new No. 16 signs on this refuge, one was placed on Lake Minatare and the other on Lake Alice. Fences on this area are in need of repair, especially on Lake Minatare. We have experienced considerable difficulty in keeping the gates closed on the Lake Alice area. People in that vicinity opened the gates and allowed their cattle to graze within the enclosure. We requested permission to lease the Lake Alice area to a rancher to pasture stock on a limited scale. After the Regional Office had corresponded with the Reclamation Service a permit was issued a rancher for the pasturing of a limited number of livestock. This rancher maintained the fences last season. From a wildlife management standpoint, this has been a splendid arrangement as the cattle were not placed on the area until after the nesting season was over, and the grazing materially assisted in reducing the fire hazard and it was possible to prevent the trespassing.

Respectfully submitted,

Wene H. Crawford

Refuge Manager

# CRESCENT LARE REPUGE ELLSWORTH, NEBRASKA

Summary of year's estivities for the Morth Platte Refuge submitted in conjunction with Quarterly Report For Jamuery, February, March, and April, 1944.

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